

Proposed Burn Permit Information – Stillwater County

Stillwater County Fire Council has proposed a Burn Permit system to the County Commissioners. Informational meetings will be held throughout the county by the Fire Council.

April 12 6:30pm at the Columbus City Hall, 408 E 1st Ave N




April 25 6:30pm at Absarokee Fire Hall, 105 W B St

April 26 6:30pm at Park City School Lunch Room, 10 2nd Ave SW





April 27 6:30pm at Stockman's Café, 205 Fourth St, Rapelje

Frequently asked questions on Burn Permits:




Why do we need burn permits?

-  Stillwater County has a history, over the last few years of large fires. The permit process could reduce the amount of tax dollars spent in responding to all fires that are reported.
-  Utilizes technology making the process of issuing and activating permits, and tracking burn locations more efficient and cost effective for the County.
-  To provide emergency personnel better tools when determining if a report of smoke/fire is a controlled burn or a true emergency. To allow the County residents the ability to obtain and activate burn permits 24 hours per day, 7 days per week on approved burn days.




Why do we need to issue burn permits?

-  To limit the amount of time volunteers spend responding to non-emergency calls allowing them to focus on true emergencies.
-  To prevent the unneeded response of fire departments with active lights and sirens that put them at greater risk for potential accidents.
-  To limit the number of calls placed to the emergency dispatch and other emergency personnel taxing their efforts for true emergencies.
-  To track the locations of all approved burns in the County. This allows emergency personnel the ability to easily determine whether a smoke plume/fire is an emergency such as a wildfire or structural fire. By tracking approved burns the fire department may not have to be dispatched each time smoke/fire is reported.

Why will there be a cost for my burn permit?

-  To assist with education efforts to inform the citizens of Stillwater County of burn permit requirements and recommendations.
-  To alleviate the costs associated with development of new tools and technology to help identify a controlled burn versus a true emergency.
-  Only 1(one) burn permit is needed each year. The permittee can add as many burn locations per year as needed.

Who can I call if I still have questions?

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|  Fire Wardens office | 322-8029 |
|  Stillwater County DES | 322-8054 |
|  Rich Cowger, Columbus Fire Chief | 321-1180 |

For more information, please visit www.BurnPermits.mt.gov